

## Getting a hero's welcome

### Montosi lauded for Pembroke actions

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After a day of ice rescue training Jan. 13, Fire Chief Kevin Nord said firefighter John Montosi could have decided he was too tired investigate the smoke he saw on Valley Street in Pembroke as he was driving home to Plymouth.

Or, Nord said, he could have assumed Pembroke firefighters were already there.

But he didn't. Instead, he was the first firefighter to respond to the blaze, made sure bystanders had called the Pembroke Fire Department, broke a bedroom window when he could not get the door open and helped the woman who lived in the house escape through the broken window — all with no firefighting gear.

After receiving treatment at the scene for smoke inhalation and minor cuts to his hand, Montosi then drove the ambulance that transported the woman and her husband to South Shore Hospital.

For his actions, selectmen honored Montosi at their meeting Monday



PHOTO COURTESY DUXBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firefighter John Montosi shakes Town Manager Richard MacDonald's hand at Monday night's board of selectmen meeting, when he was honored for his role responding to a fire in Pembroke Jan. 13. With MacDonald are selectmen, from left, Jon Witten, Andre Martecchini (behind MacDonald) and Elizabeth Sullivan.

night with a letter of commendation.

"As a direct result of his actions, the outcome of this active fire was positive," the letter said. "Who knows what the outcome might have been

had Firefighter Montosi not taken those actions and the rescue been delayed by even a few minutes?"

Nord announced that he has nominated Firefighter Montosi for the Liberty Mutual Firemark Award program for firefighters who go above and beyond the call of duty. The department has also awarded Montosi its Medal of Valor — the second-highest honor in the fire department, behind only its Medal of Honor — which he will receive at the department's relief association dinner in October.

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Additionally, Nord and Pembroke Fire Chief James Neenan have nominated Montosi for the state's Firefighter of the Year award.

Montosi, 26, started with the department Sept. 18, 2006, and Nord said Montosi's actions did not surprise him.

"He's one of our new guys, and he's really stepped up to the plate," Nord said. "It's one thing to be on duty, but it's another

thing to go out of your way to make sure everyone's safe. You don't see a lot of that these days."

After the incident, Montosi did television interviews, and Selectwoman Elizabeth Sullivan said she was impressed with how Montosi handled himself in front of the cameras.

"It made me so proud that he worked for the Town of Duxbury," she said. "He represented us so well."